Amendment to the Claims

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a list in an electronic spreadsheet program, the ~~List Object~~ list comprising a plurality of records, wherein each record ~~comprising~~ comprises a plurality of fields, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a user command to generate a list;

(b) performing a first sequence comprising the steps of:

(i) determining whether pre-existing data is to be imported into the list;

(ii) if pre-existing data is to be imported into the list, determining where the pre-existing data is located; and

(iii) if the list does not contain pre-existing data, creating a list in a worksheet in the spreadsheet program;

(c) performing a second sequence, subsequent to the first sequence, comprising the step of defining ~~a~~ the plurality of fields in the list, each field comprising a plurality of characteristics; and

(d) performing a third sequence subsequent to the second sequence, comprising the steps of:

(i) creating the list in the electronic spreadsheet program; and

(ii) creating a continuing association between each field within each record such that each field remains associated with other fields within each record when the record is manipulated, regardless of whether a user selects all of the fields within each record when manipulating records within the list and regardless of whether a user identifies the list.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether pre-existing data is to be imported into the list further comprises the steps of:

(a) determining whether the pre-existing data is located in a spreadsheet program worksheet;

(b) if the pre-existing data is located in a spreadsheet program worksheet, prompting the user to input a range within the worksheet comprising the pre-existing data; and

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(c) if the pre-existing data is not located in the spreadsheet program worksheet, opening a Query dialog box operable for receiving user commands to navigate to a location that contains the pre-existing data.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first sequence further comprises the step of determining the location where to place the list.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the location to place the list is selected from ~~the list consisting essentially of~~ one of a new worksheet, ~~or~~ and an existing worksheet.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of defining the fields in the list comprises~~,~~ at least one of the steps of: adding a new field, modifying a field, deleting a field, ~~or~~ and altering at least one of the characteristics of a field.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the list is a List Object.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the list is a List Sheet.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for displaying a plurality of dialog boxes that ~~allow~~ enable a user to graphically create ~~an~~ a List Object comprising a plurality of records ~~and~~, each record comprising a plurality ~~go~~ of fields in a spreadsheet ~~program~~, ~~comprising~~ the computer-executable instructions, when executed, carrying out the steps of:

(a) displaying a first dialog box operable for receiving user commands to specify at least one of:

(i) ~~the~~ a location within the spreadsheet where the List Object will be positioned; and

(ii) the location of any pre-existing data that will populate the ~~database~~ spreadsheet;

(b) displaying a second dialog box operable for receiving user commands to define a plurality of options associated with each of the plurality of fields in the List Object;

(c) displaying a third dialog box, operable for receiving user commands to save the plurality of options associated with each field; and

(d) creating the List Object in a worksheet within the spreadsheet ~~program~~; and

(e) creating a continuing association between each field within each record such that each field remains associated with other fields within each record when the record is manipulated,

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regardless of whether a user selects all of the fields within each record when manipulating records within the list.

9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A user interface operable for graphically creating a List Object comprising a plurality of records, each record comprising a plurality of fields, within a spreadsheet ~~program~~, the user interface comprising:

(a) a first dialog box comprising:

(i) a first plurality of input elements operable for receiving user commands to determine ~~the~~ a location of data to import into the List Object; and

(ii) a second plurality of input elements operable for receiving ~~use command~~ user commands to determine the location where the List Object will be placed in the spreadsheet;

(b) a second dialog box comprising:

(i) a window for defining the fields in the List Object;

(ii) a field form box for receiving a field name for each field defined in the window; and

(iii) a drop down menu operable for selecting a data type associated with each field defined in the window; and

(c) a third dialog box, comprising:

(i) a reference box for showing a name associated with the List Object; and

(ii) a "FINISH" button for creating the List Object, such that each field in each record is logically and continuingly associated with every other field in the record, regardless of whether a user selects all of the fields within each record when manipulating records within the list.

11. (Previously Presented) The user interface of Claim 10, wherein the first dialog box further comprises:

(a) a first reference window for receiving user input to identify the location of the data to import into the List Object external to the spreadsheet; and

(b) a second reference window for receiving user input to identify the location in the spreadsheet of the List Object..

12. (Original) The user interface of Claim 10, wherein the second dialog box further comprising a plurality of buttons operable for defining the fields in the List Object.

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13. (Original) The user interface of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of buttons is comprised from the group consisting essentially of an "Add" button, a "Modify" button, a "Delete" button, and a "Setting" button.

14. (Currently Amended) The user interface of Claim 10, wherein the List Object comprises:

(a) a frame operable for defining ~~the~~ a border of the List Object;

(b) a row selector for indicating which row of the List Object is selected;

(c) a plurality of field headers operable for identifying the ~~data~~ fields in the plurality of records; and

(d) a cell table operable for storing individual ~~data~~ fields.

15. (Original) The user interface of Claim 14, wherein the frame is active when an active cell is within the List Object.

16. (Original) The user interface of Claim 14, wherein the field headers are ghosted out over the top of a spreadsheet column header when the field headers are scrolled off the spreadsheet.

17. (Currently Amended) The user interface of Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ embedded data ~~base further comprises~~ comprise an unused space around the cell table, ~~expands~~ the unused space expanding as new records are inserted into the cell table, the unused space being operable for facilitating the insertion of new records and fields by maintaining a region between the frame and the cell table.

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